

September 2024

Report from District Cllr Tayler Regulation 19 of Uttlesford Local Plan The motion accepting that the Reg 19 document of the Local Plan should be submitted for examination, was passed by the full council on 30th July. This meant that the significant changes in the Reg 18 document as a response to the more than 5000 comments received by the Local Plan Officers were agreed and proposals by a minority of Members to slow down the process were rejected. It is very important that the timeline for presenting the Reg 19 documents to the Inspector by the end of January 2025 is maintained, so that any new changes which are likely to be made in the Local Plan regulations will occur after presentation and also the previous government were very clear that our Local Plan timetable should be adhered to, or there would be the threat of central imposition of the plan. We are now in a further consultation period, which has been extended until 14 October. Consultees, which include parish councils and residents, are invited to comment on: •The Soundness of the plan •That it has been positively prepared •That it is Justified •That it is Effective (meaning that it is deliverable, works coherently with cross border strategies) •That is consistent with national policy Unlike the previous consultation for Reg 18, these comments will be presented with the Reg 19 document to the Inspector who could then use them as part of alterations or recommendations that he or she makes to the Local Plan in the form it is finally adopted. Thus they are very important. I believe that the Reg 19 document proposes very little change for Little Bardfield and the rest of the Sampfords, stating We do not propose any development in small villages or at any other smaller settlement or in open countryside. These small settlements are not suitable for development other than very modest infill where it accords with relevant policies in the local plan or neighbourhood plans. However, I also see that there is a risk that with no development and with it a lack of infrastructure improvement, these very small settlements become unsustainable. One way of mitigating against this risk is via the production of Neighbourhood Plans, and the Local Plan team is very keen for this to occur. A significant problem with existing Neighbourhood Plans has been the considerable work and cost in their development. However there is the suggestion that a much "slimmer " and more focused plan may be acceptable for parishes which are formed around small communities such as Little Bardfield. I will endeavour to find out if this would be possible. Comments made on Reg 19 can be made by downloading the Document Representation form from the Local Plan part of the UDC website and emailing it back before 14 October